



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/869,272	06/26/2001	Jost-Ulrich Kuegler	13287-002001	2448

7590 08/20/2002

Fish & Richardson
225 Franklin Street
Boston, MA 02110-2804

EXAMINER

FRANCIS, FAYE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3712	

DATE MAILED: 08/20/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/869,272	KUEGLER, JOST-ULRICH	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Faye Francis	3712	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE ____ MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____ .

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) ____ is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 26 June 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____ .

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____ .
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) <u>3</u> .	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) because they fail to show a core as recited in claims 4-5, a saddle as recited in claim 8 and touch and close or zipper fastener and strap with an overhang and eyelet as recited in claim 9. Any structural detail that is essential for a proper understanding of the disclosed invention should be shown in the drawing. MPEP § 608.02(d). A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

2. The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). Correction of the following is required: proper antecedent basis should be provided in the specification for the terms " with the height of both curvatures being greater than the depth of the molded-in seat region " (lines 7-8 of claim 1), " the seat region has a leather layer as the saddle " (line 2 of claim 8), the entire claim 9, "the horse's rear part has a tail made from the material covering " (line 2 of claim 11), " the horse's head consist of real, artificial or stylized hairs " (lines 1-2 of claim 12) and the entire claim 13. No new matter should be entered into the application.

3. The amendment filed on 6/26/01 is objected to under 35 U.S.C. 132 because it introduces new matter into the disclosure. 35 U.S.C. 132 states that no amendment shall introduce new matter into the disclosure of the invention. The added material

which is not supported by the original disclosure is as follows: "The rocking surface has a non-slip backing made of leather or imitation leather" (page 2, lines 12-13 of clean copy of changes to specification), "the seat region has a leather layer as the saddle. The backing is connected to the basic body by a touch-and-close or zip fastener or is buttoned to it (press-stud) or by a strap (or leather strap) with an overhang and eyelet for exchanging or for cleaning or washing purposes" (page 2, lines 14-17 of clean copy of changes to specification), "the horse's rear part has a tail made from the material covering" (page 2, lines 18-19 of clean copy of changes to specification), "the tail and the mane of the horse's head consist of real hairs" (page 2, lines 19-20 of clean copy of changes to specification) and "the mane of the horse's head is designed as a pattern imprinted into the material covering" (page 2, lines 21-22 of clean copy of changes to specification).

Applicant is required to cancel the new matter in the reply to this Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

5. Claims 1, 8-9 and 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention, i.e., New Matter.

The specification as originally filed does not provide support for the teaching of

the rocking surface has a non-slip backing made of leather or imitation leather as recited in claim 1, the seat region has a leather layer as the saddle as recited in claim 8, the backing is connected to the basic body by a touch-and-close or zip fastener or is buttoned to it (press-stud) or by a strap (or leather strap) with an overhang and eyelet for exchanging or for cleaning or washing purposes" as recited in claim 9, the horse's rear part has a tail made from the material covering as recited in claim 11, the tail and the mane of the horse's head consist of real hairs as recited in claim 12 and the mane of the horse's head is designed as a pattern imprinted into the material covering as recited in claim 13. Accordingly these limitations now added to the claim are considered to be New Matter. Applicant is required to cancel the new matter in the response to this office action.

6. Claims 7, 9, 11 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. All of the elements that the applicant refers to as "material covering", "a touch-and-close or zip fastener or is buttoned to it (press-stud) or by a strap (or leather strap) with an overhang and eyelet" and "a pattern imprinted into the material covering" as required in claims 7, 9, 11 and 13 respectively are not clear.

7. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

8. Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

With respect to claim 9: the phrase "touch-and-close" is confusing.

Claim 10 is indefinite because it is not clear what the phrase "horse's head has a mane and ears designed as grips" is intended to encompass.

With respect to claim 13: it is not clear how the mane of the horse's head is designed as a pattern imprinted into the material covering?

Several expressions recited in the claims lack sufficient antecedent bases. For example only, the phrases "the base" in line 3, "the height" in line 7 and "the depth" in line 8 of claim 1 lacks proper antecedent basis. In another example only, the phrase "the saddle" of claim 8 lacks proper antecedent basis. Accordingly the applicant is requested to review all of the claims for the purpose of making corrections wherever appropriate but not specifically pointed to, in order to provide appropriate antecedents and to ensure consistency in the numbers of specific elements recited in the claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. Claims 1-2 and 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Papst in view of Taylor.

Papst discloses in the embodiment of Fig 3, a children's rocking toy in the form of a stylized horse, having a one-piece basic body [col 1 lines 14-18] made of flexible synthetic material [col 1 lines 14-34] which has a simply curved rocking surface forming the base [frame 15] of the rocking toy and a seat region 21 molded [col 2 lines 37] into it, the basic body has, at its two longitudinal end regions, two curvatures in the form of a horse's head 21a and of a horse's rear part 21b, respectively, with the height of both curvatures being greater than the depth of the molded-in seat region, the cross section of the basic body widens from its upper, narrow side, which forms the horse's head, seat region and horse's rear part, towards the curved rocking surface in a continuous and uniform contour of the side surfaces [Fig 3] as recited in claim 1.

Papst does not disclose the seat region is molded a good distance into the basic body and thereby forms a backrest region as recited in claim 1 and the rocking surface has a non-slip backing made of leather or imitation leather and the backing is connected to the basic body by a zip fastener or is buttoned to it or by a strap with an overhang and eyelet for exchanging or for cleaning or washing purposes as recited in claim 9.

Taylor teaches the concept of providing non-slip surface 14 made out of roughened leather. It would have been obvious to provide the curved rocking surface in the device of Papst to include the non-slip backing as disclosed by Taylor, in order to prevent the device from sliding. Additionally, it would have been obvious to connect the backing to the curved rocking surface by way of a zip fastener or is a button in order to prevent "premature separation" of the backing from the curved rocking surface.

With respect to the seat region is molded a good distance into the basic body and thereby forms a backrest region, Papst discloses in the embodiment of Fig 1 the seat region is molded a good distance into the basic body. It would have been obvious to modify the seat region in the embodiment of Fig 3 in device of Papst to be molded a good distance into the basic body as disclosed by the embodiment of Fig 1 of the same reference, in order to ensure safe handling and operation by a child.

11. Claims 3 and 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Papst and Taylor and further in view of GB 1326711, hereinafter GB.

Modified device of Papst discloses most of the elements of these claims as applied to claims 1-2 and 9-11 above but does not disclose the flexible synthetic material is a foam as recited in claim 3, the basic body is manufactured, in particular cut, from a foam block as recited in claim 6 and the basic body is covered with a material covering as recited in claim 7.

GB is cited to show a desirability to make a rocking toy made out of a block of foam covered with a material covering [waterproof sheet material or fabric] [col 1 last two lines]. It would have been obvious to make the device of Papst out of a block of foam as disclosed by GB in order to make the device safe for the children by avoiding hard or sharp edges. Also, it would have been obvious to provide the device with waterproof sheet material or fabric to make the device suitable for outdoor play.

12. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Papst and Taylor and further in view of Curry, Sr., hereinafter Sr.

Art Unit: 3712

Modified device of Papst discloses most of the element of this claim as applied to claims 1-2 and 9-11 above but does not disclose the tail and the mane of the horses head consist of real, artificial or stylized hairs.

Sr teaches the concept of providing a rocking horse in which the tail and the mane of the horse's head consist of artificial airs [col 7 line 44]. It would have been obvious to provide the rocking horse of Sr with artificial airs in its tail and mane as disclosed by Sr in order to make the device more realistic.

13. Claims 8 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Papst and Taylor and further in view of Official Notice hereby taken that having seat region has a leather layer as the saddle is well known in the art.

Modified device of Papst discloses most of the elements of claim 8 as applied to claims 1-2 and 9-11 above but does not disclose the seat region has a leather layer as the saddle.

In view of Official Notice above it would have been obvious to provide the device of Papst with a leather saddle in order to have a more comfortable seat.

Allowable Subject Matter

14. Claims 4-5 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, first and second paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

15. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Faye Francis whose telephone number is 703-306-5941. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 6:30-3:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Derris Banks can be reached on 703-308-1745. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9302 for regular communications and 703-872-9303 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1148.



FF
August 5, 2002

DERRIS H. BANKS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700